

God's dumb creatures were very, very often subjected to terrible cruelty, often through thoughtlessness, often, too, through the hardness and wickedness of human hearts. I was walking down a road in a country place when I noticed a cart coming, a yoke of oxen in front and a man driving them, swearing at the poor dumb brutes very dreadfully. Then to my horror, he seized a pitchfork and jammed it into the back of one of the oxen. The animal almost fainted, then, with one bound of agony, I rushed up to the man, and burst into tears, told him that such treatment of God would never do him harm for that dreadful act of violence could say no more, but that I went to the young girl to whom he was engaged to be married and told her what had happened. He said, "I did, that such a cruel, wicked man would never be kind to her or to any other creature." From that time forward I made up my mind that his whole future life should be given, as far as possible, to the protection of God's dumb creatures. In the training of animals in acts of gentleness, mercy and kindness to save

It is time that this contemptible attempt to make capital for the Democratic party out of the necessities of the country should cease. Journalists and public men have engaged in it, whose eminent fitness for more decent things makes it merely disreputable for them. The President knows right well, as his friends know, that he has all the time taken pains to incorporate in his financial measures various provisions which Republicans could not approve. More than a month was wasted by the President and his Secretary of the Treasury in trying to water the Democratic scheme for wildcat banks into life and growth. Had he proposed, in place of that reckless measure, any such bill as he and his friends profess to want passed, it would have passed long ago. Neither do Republicans believe in retiring the greenbacks, for no better purpose than to enable bankers to control a greater share of the currency. Yet the President wasted weeks more in a zealous endeavor to force a measure of that sort through the House. Even less excusable was the attempt to force small silver notes into the hands of the working people, in place of the notes redeemable in gold.

Had the proposal for a gold bond come alone and at any time when there was a ghost of a chance that it could pass, it would have deserved and received serious attention. It did not suit the President's plans to offer it in that way or at any such time, and he has his reward. After he had been driven out of every other financial proposal he had made, there came this shabby trick, a proposal to ratify the contract made with foreign bankers, and yet at a time when it was certain that 3 per cent bonds could not be legalized. Thus by the authorities of both parties in Congress it was beaten, and with it every plan of a financial character which this Administration has yet submitted.

Grover Cleveland's financial policy epitomized: give me the pleasure of piling up the public debt, and I care not who has to pay it.

Mr. Oscar Wilde has written a play on "The Importance of Being Earnest." Somebody should, for the benefit of disappointed politicians, write a sermon on "The Importance of Being Calm." No doubt there are Assemblymen and others whose sentiments toward Mayor Strong are well expressed by the sentiment: "D— him! I wish he was dead!" But it is neither good taste nor good politics for them to say so.

That there is more joy over the return of one steamship thought to be lost than over that of a multitude which cross the Bar on schedule time, the experience of the Gasconne attests. If she had been Lafayette or Kosciuszko she could not have encountered a more tempestuous and multitudinous welcome than awaited her at her wharf—a tidal wave of greeting higher than any which the winter ocean piled up against her on her way over. Her loss, so soon following that of the Elbe, would have renewed and intensified the shock of that piteous catastrophe, and we may well congratulate ourselves that such a disaster has been averted, as well as on the demonstration she has given that a steamship of the first class, although disabled, is safe amid the heaviest and most continuous storms.

Inasmuch as no less than three members of the new French Cabinet belong to the medical profession, it may be hoped that the Ribot Administration will be more long-lived than either of its predecessors.

That age does not always bring judgment or wisdom, and that years sometimes fail to temper the fiery passions of youth, are shown by the fact that the scene that took place the other day in that ordinarily grave and decorous body, the

French Senate, has resulted in one of its members, the seventy-three-year-old M. Girault challenging to a duel the Baron de Lareintz who celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday only last month. It is to be hoped that some sensible middle-aged person will interfere to prevent this.

two pugnacious old gentlemen from making themselves ridiculous in the eventide of their lives. M. de Larenty is an aristocrat with the most sturdy Legitimist principles, while his adversary, M. Girault, who is proud of having been at the management of his father's wine

The New-York Mercantile Exchange wants lower telephone rates. So say we all of us.

New-York firemen, when they feel disposed to grumble with the arduous character of their lot, would do well to compare their own fate with that of the firemen at Liverpool, who, after

being summoned the other day in the midst of a blizzard to extinguish a fire at the local small pox hospital, were afterward compelled to submit to an elaborate process of disinfection and vaccination, those possessed of families being further debarred from the privilege of holding

any intercourse with them for an entire week.

---

In the opinion of M'cheet T. Daly, the deposed Commissioner of Public Works, the passage of the Power of Removal bill does not settle the

question, at least in his case, and he thinks of appealing to the courts to find out whether the Legislature has any right to shorten his term. Daly could not have consulted counsel before expressing this opinion. Even a man with the legal attainments of John C. Sheehan could have in

formed him that the Legislature had a perfect right to do this and that Mayer Strong was acting lawfully in appointing Commissioner Brookfield. The spectacle of "Mike" Daly contesting the constitutionality of the Removal act would have a tendency to excite the risible even.

The wheels of justice were a trifle slow in New Jersey, but they finally "got there."

The Mayor has wisely determined that he will appoint a number of women on the Board of Education at the earliest opportunity. To the people of the city this will be good news.

---

PERSONAL

General McCook said the other day, in the course of an address at a meeting of the Indian Rights Association, at Denver, that in his forty years' experience with the Indians he had always found a white man at the bottom of every difficulty. He said

The Rev. George Arbuthnot, vicar of the parish of Stratford-on-Avon, now travelling in America for the benefit of his health, appeared before the National Geographic Society, at National Rifle Hall,

Washington, D. C., last night, and delivered a lecture on Shakespeare's birthplace and the church at the poet's grave. At home the Rev. Mr. Arbutnot has never found it difficult to curb his enthusiasm for Shakespeare, but "absence makes the heart grow fonder," and it is pleasant to know

that the year is really a Shakespeare enthusiast now. His lecture was illustrated with lantern slides. Perhaps when the Rev. Mr. Arbuthnot returns to Stratford his pleasant memories of America and of American homage for the Shakespeare shrines may induce him to quit the work of spoiling that lordly old Shakespeare church by making everything about it new, modern and common.

Mrs. Paret, wife of Bishop Paret (Episcopal), of Baltimore, tells how she came to go into the movement for the prevention of cruelty to animals. "Years ago," she says, "when quite young, I saw an act of cruelty to a dumb animal, the remem-

brance of which has never left me. It opened my eyes for the first time in my life to the fact that

\_\_\_\_\_